



May 18, 2022

Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes



The meeting was held via WebEx.

Per current practice, the meeting is also streamed live on Facebook at Frederick County Sustainability Commission and made available via phone (**1-855-925-2801, Code 9813**) for listening.

Present: Chair: John Ferri, Vice-Chair: Faith Klareich (PT), Secretary: Mark Sankey, Elizabeth Law, Ben Springer, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Tiffany Fossett, William Steigelmann, Jennifer Bird

Frederick County Council Liaison: Not Represented

OSER staff: Dawn Ashbacher

Guests/Public: Michael Hughes, Nathan Pool

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by John Ferri. He invited the public via the virtual platform. John initiated a moment of silent reflection and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mark Sankey asked for any discussion on the minutes of the Commission meeting of April 20, 2022. No comments were offered and the minutes were approved unanimously.

OSER Update – Shannon, Dawn

In Shannon's absence, Dawn provided an overview of OSER activities and related County actions.

- Additions to the OSER staff includes an experienced GIS analyst. He has interest in nature conservation and exploring.
- Climate & Energy efforts continue in 4 main areas
 - Development of the action plan for county government operations
 - Clean energy which currently includes buying renewable energy credits (RECs).
 - Building and built-infrastructure improvements, including the Power Saver Retrofit Program. An MEA surplus provided an additional \$60,000 above the \$400,000 requested for a total of \$460,000 for such work. The County was also awarded a MEA Smart Energies Community grant to convert Pinecliff Park lighting to LED. Work on business incentives for energy efficiency advances

with a partnership with Potomac Edison. The business incentives program was highlighted by WFRE.

- Efforts for support of county fleet transition to EV and alternative fuel vehicles continues with a consulting firm. A program to prepare for community EV readiness will kick-off in June.
- Ron asked whether the Power Saver Retrofit Program can support EV infrastructure. Dawn said the FY 22 award provides funds for upgrades to electrical boxes.
- Bill asked about plans for the Oak St. facility. Dawn explained that specific office uses remain in a study phase. The 911 call center will be housed there.
- Faith advised that DOE funding for state loans for significant energy retrofits is on the horizon.

Equity and Inclusion Program – Michael Hughes

Michael introduced himself and identified as the Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer of the County. He described this as an evolving responsibility in an emerging field. The County has identified diversity as a goal for all aspects of County Government.

Michael described diversity as being multi-cultural and the goal as creating an inclusive environment and communities of belonging. He appreciates the opportunity to work with us and other commissions who are seeking help in pursuit of diversity. An example of County efforts is the recent formation of a Police Accountability Board. Such groups must be diverse from inception.

Michael shared a presentation including the following points.

- Culture is inevitable.
- Culture has benefits and negatives. Be yourself but avoid dominant cultures. Honor vs. dishonor. Need to be able to be one's authentic self.
- Importance of thinking through to avoid unintentional outcomes. Introspection is part of the process.
- We have a challenge to actively pursue cultural competence.

Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Master Plan FCSC Comments - All

Betty presented her draft of a public statement. Disagreement with some specifics was voiced and discussion followed. Mark presented a potential revision by sharing on the web screen. It was clear that time would not permit resolution of a statement for the public meeting of the Planning Commission this evening. The issue was tabled for future discussion.

Subcommittee Updates –All

- Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan – Mark

Mark repeated the notice for tonight's meeting at 6:00 pm at Winchester Hall indicating he would attend. More information will follow. He will draft a revised Commission statement for presentation at a future public meeting. This will be circulated for discussion at next month's meeting.

- South Frederick Corridor – Faith

The Committee met to move ahead with a high level draft report. The zoning concept follows the form-based approach including green space woven through 3 areas. A fourth area serves as a buffer, Intent is for the area along to I-270 to be designated an urban district. Need remains to address safety, pedestrian and bike access, crime and various economic levels.

Bill noted the rough boundaries of the MARC train station on the South and East Street Circle on the north. The area includes the retail area with Best Buy and the Route 85 and 355 corridor.

Jenn noted the inclusion of Green and Complete Street concepts.

- Green Resources Energy Action Team (GREAT) – Bill

No updates.

- Sustainability Awards – Jenn, Dawn

Research and preparation for the award applications is complete. June 1 is the target for public announcement of this year's program.

- Suggested New Subcommittee – Outreach, Diversity, & Inclusion

The Commission is working on a definition and goals for this sub-committee. Ben and Tiffany have shown strong interest and John suggested Ben to take the lead. More will follow.

Commissioner Applicant – Nathan Pool

Nathan introduced himself. He is originally from PA and lived in DC for 3 years before moving to Frederick County. He has 11 years of experience working for Baltimore City. His professional career provides strength in economics and finance. He has a great appreciation for nature and is motivated for conservation.

Faith commented on those interests and noted awareness of public policy. She noted areas of involvement in green energy and housing policy.

Ron commented on high upfront costs for certain areas of public policy.

John noted need to address issues of housing, labor force impacts, and transportation.

Follow-Up Items Commissioner Interest/Updates - All

- Monthly Meeting Format – Virtual or In-Person. John reminded us we will need to revisit this issue soon.
- Executive Committee/Officer Interest for 2022-2023 Commission Year (Ref By-Laws).
 - Chair – Faith
 - Vice-Chair – Bill expressed interest to serve.
 - Secretary – Open. The Commission needs someone to show interest.
- Mark stated his continued pursuit of issues related to the Sugarloaf Plan.
- Ron continues work on advocating for EVs. Ford has begun to market the F-150 Lightning pick-up truck. It has garnered good reviews and begins with a waiting list. Volvo has established a premium EV brand under the name Polestar. Hertz announced plans to buy 100,000 Tesla vehicles and 50,000 Volvos.
- Jenn reported the Maryland Department of the Environment is ramping up initiatives regarding Environmental Justice.
- John has been assigned to a Federal Government task force to work on a Climate Action Plan for the Department of Labor.
- Faith plans to attend an ACEEE conference in White Plains, NY next week. Green financing and Green Banks are on the agenda. Frederick City is studying such as part of budget planning.
- Ron mentioned new initiatives regarding metered energy efficiency.

Public Comment

John invited public comments and none was received. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.